

## Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1262

AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3811

MANILA FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (RUSH), TH

SUBJ: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT TO THAILAND

SUMMARY: THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HAD CORDIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THAI PRIME AND FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, THE ROLE OF THE PRC AND USSR IN THE AREA AND US-THAI BILATERAL RELATIONS. ON ALL ISSUES THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT. THE VISIT WAS CAPPED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD INCREASE THAILAND'S SCRAP IRON ALLOCATION FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1974--A FIRST  
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STEP WHICH DEMONSTRATED TO KEY THAI LEADERS THAT WE TAKE

SERIOUSLY THEIR REQUEST FOR GREATER EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. THAI OFFICIALS WERE OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY THE VISIT, BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S OPEN AND FRANK COMMENTS AND BY HIS ASSURANCES THT WE INTEND TO REMAIN AN IMPORTANT FACTOR ON THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN SCENE. END SUMMARY.

1. SCHEDULE: DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH LUNCHEd AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AFTER HIS NOON MARCH 5 ARRIVAL. A MISSION BRIEFING FOLLOWED THE LUNCH. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WAS GUEST OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT DINNER MARCH 5, AND CALLED ON THE PRIME AND FOREIGN MINISTERS MARCH 6. HE HELD A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE AT 1200 HOURS FOR SAIGON.

2. THE CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, WHICH LASTED FORTY MINUTES, EMPHASIZED ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY THE OIL SITUATION, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS. HE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA AND THAI-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN GENERAL (SEPTEL).

3. THE CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER, CHARUNPHAN ISSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA, CONCENTRATED ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE THAI EMPHASIZED TRADE AND PARTNERSHIP. THE THAI BROUGHT UP THE SORTAGES THEY FACE IN KEY COMMODITIES AND ASKED WHETHER THE USG COULD TAKE UP THE SLACK. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ANNOUNCED THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE 20,000 MORE TONS OF SCRAP IRON THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR. THE RTG REITERATED ITS DESIRE TO REVIEW THE 1950 ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. THE INTERVIEW ENDED WITH A DISCUSSION OF NORTH VIETNAM'S ROLE IN INDOCHINA (THE THAI OBVIOUSLY REGARD HANOI AS THE PROBLEM CHILD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD) AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING SPECULATIVE PRESS ACCOUNTS DEALING WITH THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND (SEPTEL).

4. AT HIS AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AGAIN MENTIONED THE INCREASED SCRAP IRON ALLOTMENT. HE  
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FIELDDED QUESTIONS ON LAOS, THE OIL CRISIS, AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BANGKOK 3724).

5. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HELD AN HOUR AND HALF PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S CALL IN WHICH HE NOTED THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S ASSURANCES THAT THE UNITED STATES DESIRED CONTINUED CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. CHARUNPHAN SAID HE RAISED WITH MR. RUSH THE 1950 ECONOMIC

AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THAILAND. THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE ALSO DISCUSSED NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION, EMPHASIZING CROP SUBSTITUTION. HE ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO HELP FIND MARKETS FOR CROPS GROWN AS OPIUM SUBSTITUTES. OTHER SUBJECTS THE FOREIGN MINISTER MENTIONED IN HIS NEWS CONFERENCE WERE: U.S. SALE OF STRATEGIC MATERIALS; INVESTMENT IN THAILAND; SEATO; THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA; SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE NEED TO EASE TENSIONS THERE (SEPTTEL).

6. THE THAI AND CHINESE LANGUAGE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT STRESSED ECONOMIC AND SECURITY SUBJECTS. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE "THE NATION" MARCH 7 HIGHLIGHTED THE THAI PROPOSAL FOR ANNUAL DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, AND INCREASED U.S. PURCHASE OF THAI PRODUCTS. THE "BANGKOK POST" FEATURED SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS IN ITS FRONT PAGE ARTICLE MARCH 7. THE "POST" BEGAN ITS ARTICLE WITH A COMMENT ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE U.S., THE SOVIET UNION, AND CHINA "SHOULD PERSUADE NORTH VIETNAM TO STRIVE FOR PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA."

7. CONCLUSION: THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT WAS A HELPFUL REASSURANCE TO THE RTG OF OUR CONTINUING AND IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN THAILAND. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S EMPHASIS ON PARTNERSHIP STRUCK A RESPONSIVE CHORD AMONG RTG OFFICIALS. THE GOVERNMENT LEADERS APPEARED GRATIFIED AT THE EMPHASIS ON CONSULTATIONS IN THE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC FIELDS. THE OBVIOUS RAPPORT WHICH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ESTABLISHED WITH BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER BROUGHT NEW MONEY TO OUR  
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BANGKOK DIPLOMATIC BANK.  
KINTNER

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